



Interagency Species Management System (ISMS) Version 2

What is ISMS?

The Interagency Species Management System (ISMS) is an Oracle database with a Geographical Information System (GIS) User Interface for part of the data entry. It is hosted by the United States Forest Service (FS), Region 6, and used by about 530 FS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) persons in Region 5, Region 6, and BLM Oregon and California. USFWS, Region 1, staff also query it. It originally was to have been a threatened, endangered and special status species / Survey and Manage species database, but development progressed slowly, so in mid-1999, Bill Bradley, DSD Resources, OR BLM, and Bob Devlin, Director of Natural Resources, R6, FS decided that in order to shorten time to deployment, the scope should be cut to just Survey and Manage.

The original database for Survey and Manage was the Known Site Database, which was populated from information on known locations researched from herbariums, museums, and other sources, including the National Forest and BLM District staffs. The data from this simple database was moved into ISMS prior to deployment to the field office users in March of 2000. Other data placed into the database prior to deployment was known sites data collected by the field office staffs and sent into the Regional Ecosystem Office for central data entry solely to support the preparation of the 2000 Supplemental EIS. A minimal number of data fields were entered in this central effort since the EIS only needed basic occurrence information. Much work on the part of the field offices and the ISMS staff has accomplished great increases in data integrity and completeness to fix most of the data problems stemming from that early pre-deployment data entry. ISMS contains information about existing locations of Survey and Manage Species and about areas which were surveyed for specific species. This information is available spatially (in GIS) and in the database. The data can be queried in Oracle SQL, MS Access and GIS ArcView formats. Support for ISMS users will continue as before while we also begin upgrading the application into ISMS Version 2.0. We do not plan on future modifications beyond ISMS Version 1.15, which will accommodate two new fields per form for documenting Fire Management Recommendations. This version is planned for April 2003 release.

What is ISMS Version 2.0?

ISMS Version 2.0 is a planned redesign of the database and data entry application to take advantage of changing technologies, verify the existing user business needs and to respond to changes in the Survey and Manage program. The main goal of ISMS 2 is to plan or create an application for analysis instead of focusing on data input. ISMS 2 will focus more on giving users an application to help them in their resource work rather than

a data entry tool. After it is completed, a logical task to explore by the ISMS team and the field offices would be collecting data electronically in the field and dumping it into ISMS.


The current ISMS application is a combination of Oracle forms and ArcView utilizing attribute data stored in an Oracle database and spatial data stored in distributed shapefiles. Since the initial design of ISMS, exciting advances in GIS technology have occurred that should make interacting with and storing ISMS spatial data much easier.

Changes to the Survey and Manage program as a result of the current SEIS may result in a different purpose for the ISMS database. The ISMS team plans to collect requirements that fit within the scope of any of the alternatives of the SEIS and follow whatever management program changes come from the SEIS record of decision. To be in sync with the SEIS ROD, we have to start requirements gathering before the decision is published in order to meet user needs.

What is the next step?

The ISMS development team is beginning to meet with representative groups across the two agencies throughout the region to receive information from many different people on information and resource program business needs that reflect how resource specialists and managers do their work and how an application can facilitate that.

If you have an interest in participating in a requirements meeting, please contact Stephanie Miles, our User Requirements Coordinator. Other contacts are also listed if Stephanie can not be reached temporarily.

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